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Photo Intelligence Memorandum

GEOGRAPHY OF THE CH'E-LI AREA
SOUTHERN YUNNAN, CHINA

GP/I-24
(Project 72.92)

August 1954

Declass Review by NIMA/DOD

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Research and Reports

31 August 1954

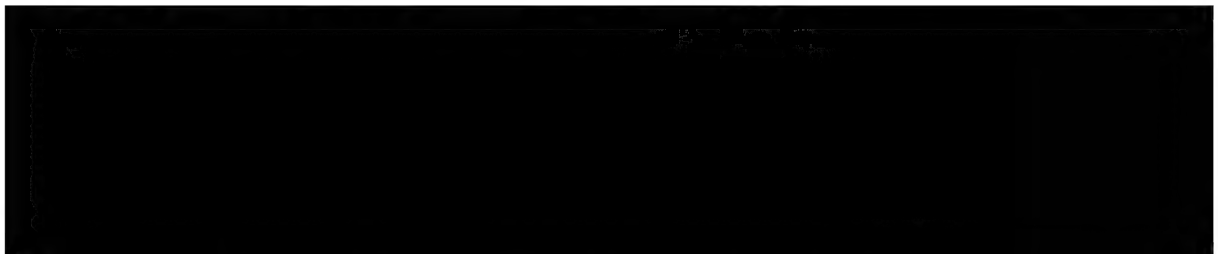
CH'E-LI AREA, SOUTHERN YUNNAN PROVINCE, CHINA

This report is submitted in answer to a D/GG request for an aerial photo study of the Ch'e-li area. The purpose of the study is two-fold: (1) to pin-point the location and furnish a town plan of Ch'e-li, and (2) to locate and furnish aerial photos illustrating the geography of the Ch'e-li area. There are conflicting reports of the actual location of Ch'e-li. The maps of this region are very poor, and the locations and alignments of rivers, towns, roads, etc. are only approximate.

Ground intelligence, supplied by the requester, reports that there is a Chinese Court and a Mission Station in Ch'e-li, and, also, that an old moat surrounds the village. On the basis of this, and other miscellaneous information, the village was located on the aerial photos. The enclosed plan was traced from an enlargement of an aerial photograph.

The town plan and the accompanying aerial photographs were selected by the requester for inclusion in CIA/RR-GR-65, entitled The Geography Of The Ch'e-li Area of Southern Yunnan.

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Map Reference: AMS 1301 (GSGS 2555), Asia 1:1,000,000, Sheet N.F-47



Figure 1. The Mekong River, looking south towards Burma and Laos. Steep forested hills rise abruptly from the river. In the foreground, patches of cleared land can be seen on the mountain slopes. Ch'e-li and Chieng-hung are located on the south side of the prominent bend of the Mekong.

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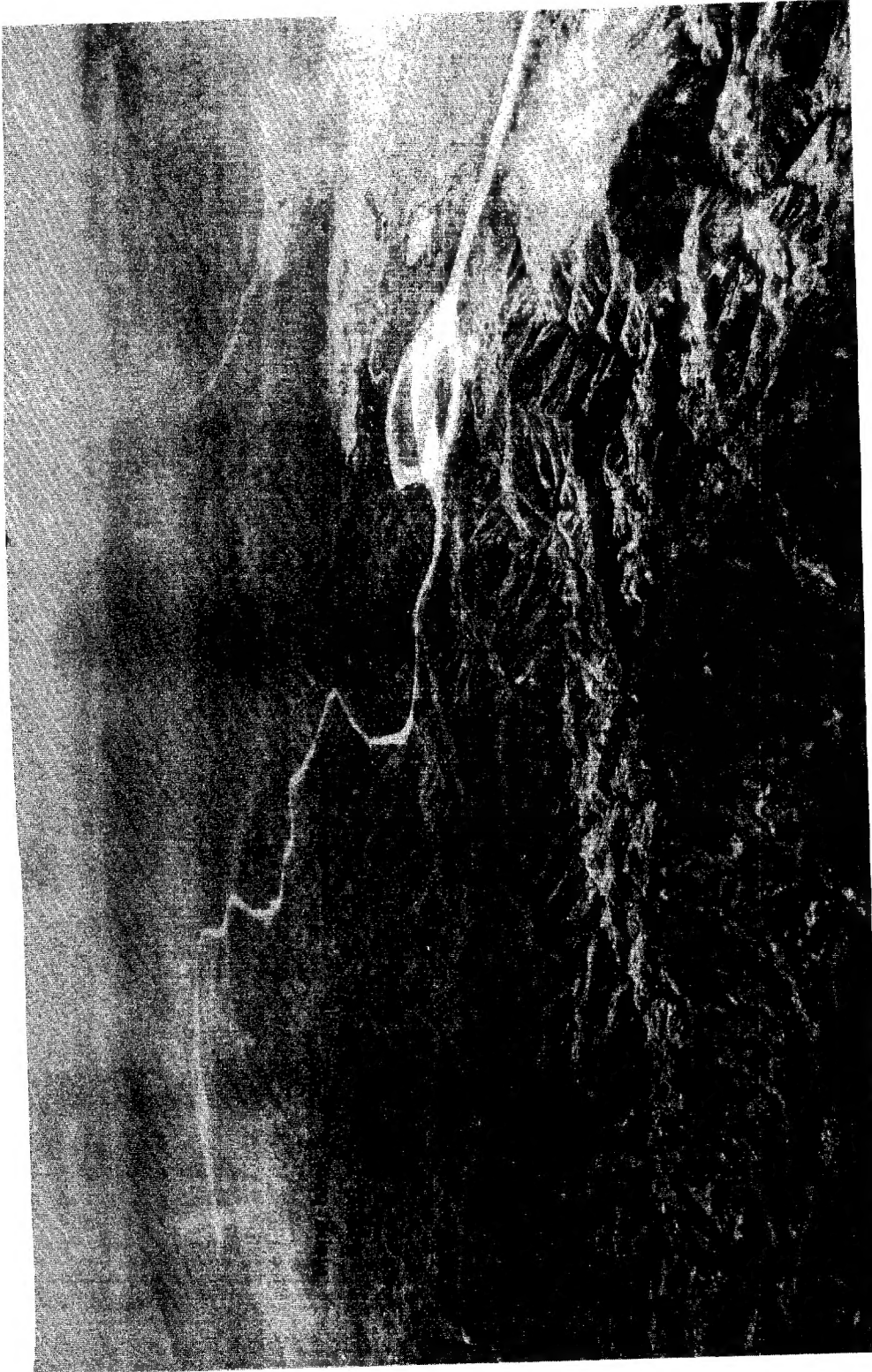


Figure 2. About 15 miles south of Ch'e-li is the important Tai-inhabited basin of Meng-ham. To the west (right) are Ch'e-li, Chienghung, and the Ch'e-li basin.

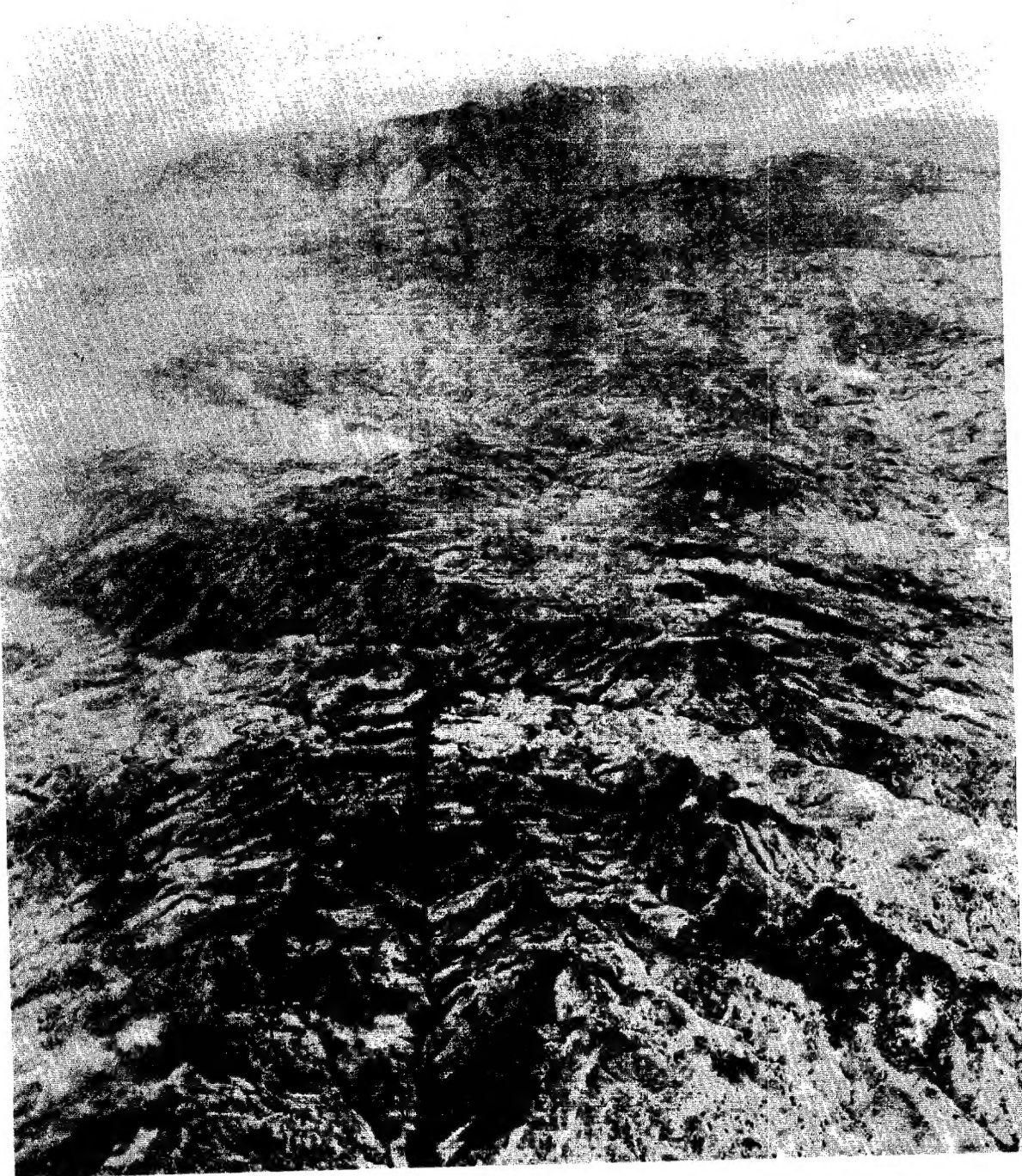


Figure 3. Rugged mountain country about 12 miles northwest of Ch'e-li. Note the large areas in grass and scrub vegetation and the smoke from fires set by hill tribesmen to clear new forest land. At the lower right is a small hill-tribe village -- probably Akha or Lolo.

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Figure 4. Village of Ch'e-li, looking north. At the right is the road from Ssu-mao. Note the Chinese court and moat. This photograph should be compared with Map 13405. Approximate scale 1:10,000.

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Figure 5. Looking north across the braided channels of the Mekong. At the lower center is Chienghung. The photograph was taken in winter; in summer the river rises and covers most of the sandspits. Approximate scale 1:20,000.

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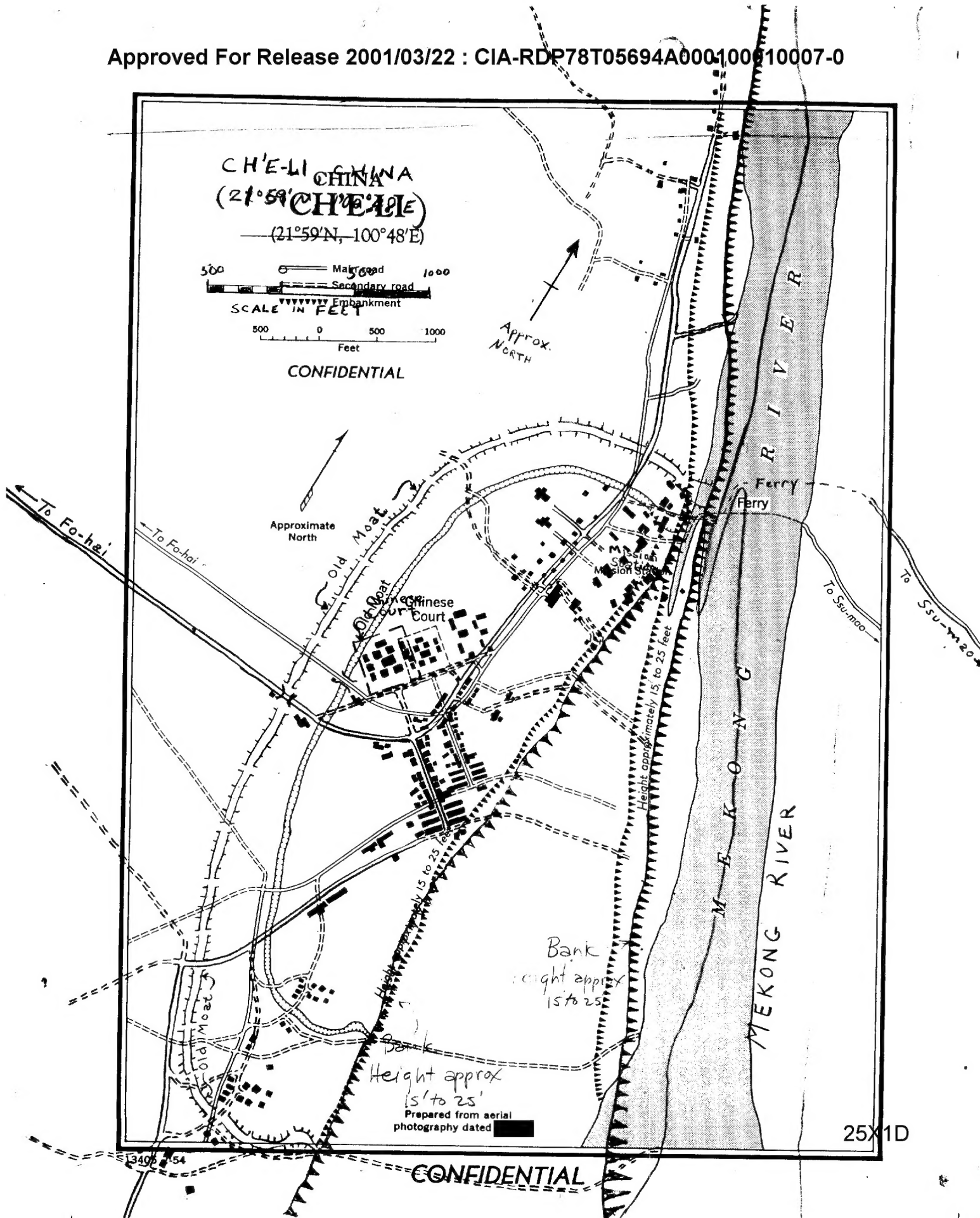
Figure 6. Tai village of Chienghung, former residence of the kings of Sibsong Panna. The larger structures are Buddhist temples or a "palace" of the Tai Lu king. Enlarged from Figure 5; scale approximately 1:10,000.

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Figure 7. The Ch'e-li basin, looking south. The basin is devoted almost entirely to rice growing. A number of Tai Lu villages are located along the basin margins and streams. Ch'e-li and the Mekong are at the lower left. The Ch'e-li--Fo-hai road () follows the north bank of the Liu-sha Ho. Scale approximately 1:58,000.

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